

## Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ARA-06 EUR-12 EA-06 NEA-09 IO-10 ISO-00

AGR-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-01

INR-07 INT-05 L-02 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01

AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15 STR-01 TAR-01 TRSE-00 PRS-01

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 353

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 GENEVA 0606

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (REFERENCE A: GENEVA 422 VICE 421)

PASS STR

E.O. 11652: NA  
TAGS: ETRD GATT  
SUBJECT: MTN: JANUARY 30 SEVEN PLUS SEVEN MEETING

REF: A) GENEVA 422; B) GENEVA 397

1. SUMMARY 7 PLUS 7 MET JAN 30 IN SECOND ALL-DAY SESSION TO DISCUSS CONTENT OF UPCOMING TNC MEETING. CONSENSUS FORMED ON ESTABLISHMENT OF TROPICAL PRODUCTS GROUP AT TNC WITH DISCUSSION OTHER GROUPS POSTPONED PENDING SETTLEMENT PROGRAMS OF "SOME DELS" OVER AGRICULTURAL STRUCTURE. SOME ADDITIONAL DETAILS OFFERED BY DELS ON INITIAL PRIORITIES. UNCTAD QUESTION REMAINED UNRESOLVED. NEXT MEETING SET FOR FEB 6. WHERE MORE DETAILED REVIEW OF SUBSTANCE AND SOME DISCUSSION NEGOTIATING GROUPS SEEMS INEVITABLE. ACTION REQUESTED: FURTHER GUIDANCE ON U.S. POSITIONS RE WORK PROGRAM AND STRUCTURE. END SUMMARY

2. SECOND MEETING OF 7 PLUS 7 HELD JAN 30 IN MORNING AND AFTERNOON TO CONTINUE DISCUSSION PREPARING FOR FEBRUARY 11 TNC MEETING AND WORK PROGRAM FOR THE FIRST STAGE OF THE MTN (SEE REF A). DG LONG PROPOSED PARA 2 GATT/AIR/1134 (REF B) BE ADOPTED AS AGENDA FOR TNC MEETING AND ASKED THAT DELS LIMITED OPENING STATEMENTS TO 15 MINUTES EACH. IN LINE WITH AGENDA, TNC WOULD PROCEED TO AGREE ON LIST OF ISSUES FOR MTN INITIAL STAGES AND PROCEDURES FOR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NEGOTIATING THOSE ISSUES. ALL 7 PLUS 7 REPS SEEMED WILLING ACCEPT THIS APPROACH.

3. TROPICAL PRODUCTS: BEGINNING SYSTEMATIC REVIEW OF SUBSTANCE, LONG PRESSED FOR MORE DETAIL ON HOW TO GIVE PRIORITY TO TROPICAL PRODUCTS. IF GENERAL AGREEMENT ON WORK PROGRAM, TNC COULD DECIDE ON ORGANIZATIONAL FORM OF SUCH WORK. IN RESPONSE, REPS GENERALLY

AGREED WITH MALAYSIA (LAI) THAT WORK ON TROPICAL PRODUCTS COULD START WITHOUT PRELIMINARY DEFINITION OF SCOPE OF TROPICAL PRODUCTS CANADA (GREY) SUGGESTED THIS BE DONE WITH EARLY EXCHANGE OF OFFERED AND REQUEST LISTS. REACTION GENERALLY FAVORABLE, WITH EC (LUYTEN) STRESSING THAT THE TROPICAL PRODUCTS GROUP SHOULD ALSO PAY SPECIAL ATTENTION TO COMPARATIVE LEVELS OF CONSUMPTION OF TROPICAL PRODUCTS IN VARIOUS DEVELOPED COUNTRIES. U.S. (HARTZELL) REAFFIRMED OUR COMMITMENT TO PRIORITY REQUIRED BY TOKYO DECLARATION ON TROPICAL PRODUCTS. WE THOUGHT APPROACH TO GET TO SUBSTANCE OF TIS ISSUE AS SUGGESTED BY OTHER DELEGATIONS APPEARED REASONABLE. WE SAW NO IMPEDIMENT TO MOVING AHEAD ON TROPICAL PRODUCTS AS OF TN MEETING.

4. LDC'S LED MY MALAYSIA INSISTED THAT AGREEMENT NEEDED ASAP ON TROPICAL PRODUCTS NEGOTIATING GROUP. ALL REPS WERE WILLING ACCEPT THIS PROPOSAL BUT SEVERAL CONCERNED OVER SPECIFIC TERMS OF REFERENCE TO BE ESTABLISHMENT FOR SUCH GROUP. JAPAN (MIZOGUCHI) POINTED OUT UNDERSTANDING WOULD HAVE TO BE DEVELOPED ON SUCH ISSUES AS TROPICAL PRODUCTS IN COMPETITION WITH TEMPERATURE ZONE PRODUCTS AND APPLICABILITY OF GENERAL TARIFF CUTTING FORMULA TO TROPICAL PRODUCTS. THESE MATTERS NOT NECESSARILY WITHIN COMPETENCE OF TROPICAL GROUP. INDIA (CHADA) STATED SUCH BORDER-LINE CASES COULD BE ALSO DEALT WITH IN TROPICAL PRODUCTS GROUP, BUT DG THOUGHT TNC WOULD HAVE TO DECIDE. LONG SUMMARIZED DISCUSSION ON TROPICAL PRODUCTS IN FIVE POINTS:

(A) TNC SHOULD SET UP NEGOTIATING GROUP ON TROPICAL PRODUCTS; (B) THIS GROUP SHOULD DECIDE ON HOW TO ORGANIZE ITS WORK BUT SHOULD NOT NECESSARILY DECIDE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ITS RULES AND PROCEDURES; (C) REQUESTS AND OFFER LIST FOR TROPICAL PRODUCTS SHOULD BE CIRCULATED IN THIS GROUP WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS ON SUCH LIST; (D) GROUP SHOULD BE ABLE DEAL WITH MORE GENERAL QUESTIONS THAN SPECIFIC OFFERS AND REQUESTS, BUT QUESTIONS OF WIDER SIGNIFICANCE THAN TROPICAL PRODUCTS SHOULD BE REPORTED BACK TO THE TNC; (E) TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE TROPICAL PRODUCTS GROUP SHOULD FOCUS ON TASKS ASSIGNED THIS GROUP. TO EXTENT POSSIBLE WIDESPREAD DISCUSSION ON TERMS OF REFERENCE ON TIS GROUP SHOULD BE AVOIDED. MEXICO (GARRIDO) ACCEPTED WITH PROVISION THAT PRIORITY TREATMENT SHOULD MEAN WILLINGNESS TO TIE UP COMPLETE TROPICAL PRODUCTS PACKAGE PRIOR TO END OF REST OF NEGOTIATIONS (ALTHOUGH IMPLEMENTATION MIGHT BE HELD UP FOR LIMITED

PERIOD). BRAZIL (MACIEL) REINFORMED BY STRESSING  
PRIORITY MEANT BOTH EARLY START AND EARLY RESULTS.

5. NTB'S: LONG QUESTIONED STATE OF PREPAREDNESS OF  
PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES ON NTB'S THEY WOULD WANT TO  
INCLUDE IN FIRST STAGE OF NEGOTIATIONS EMPHASIZING  
DOMESTIC PERSUASION REQUIRED TO ACHIEVE RESULTS. EC  
INDITIFIED IST CANDIDATES AS EXPORT SUBSIDIES AND  
COUNTERVAILING DUTIES, CUSTOMS VALUATION, AND TARIFF  
NOMENCLATURE. SWITZERLAND (DUNKEL) MENTIONED SAME  
SUBJECT PLUS LABELLING, PACKAGING, MARKS OF ORIGIN  
STANDARS AND GOVERNMENT PROCUEMENT. U.S. REITERATED  
NEED FOR A GOOD SHOWING ON NTB'S TIS YEAR, INDICATED  
THAT A LONGER LIST MIGHT BE OKAY IF GOVERNMENTS  
PREPARED TO DEVOTE EFFORT, BUT WE WOULD RATHER SEE WORK  
MOVE FASTER ON SHORTER LIST. WE THOUGHT INITIAL PROGRAM  
SHOULD INCLUDE STANDARSS (PLUS PACKAGING/LABELLING),  
SUBSIDIES AND RELATED QUESTION OF COUNTER VAILING DUTIES  
(CVD), AND GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT. WE WANTED  
ARLY START ON THESE. JAPAN SUGGESTED INCLUDING CUSTOMS VALUATION  
AND DISCRIMINATORY IMPORTS QUOTAS. BRAZIL FAVORED CVD,  
SANITARY REGULATIONS, AND QUANTITATIVE RESTRICTIONS.  
MANY REPS QUESTIONED WHETHER NTB'S OFFERED CHANCE FOR  
SELF-BALANCING DEALS OR WOULD DEPEND ON PROGRESS  
ELSEWHERE. CANADA SAID PROGRESS ON CVD WOULD CONDITION  
ITS ATTITUDE ON CANADIAN TARIFF CONCESSION. ALSO READY  
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FOR AD REFERENDUM DISCUSSIONS ON QR'S, GOVERNMENT PROCURE-  
MENT, AND APPLICATION OF ANTIDUMPING CODE. STANDARDS  
MIGHT OFFER CHANCE FOR SELF-BALANCING PACKAGE. ARGENTINA  
(MARTINEZ) ALSO ARGUED NTB NEGOTATIONS CANNOT BE  
SELF-BALANCING, AND THAT NEGOTIATIONS ON NTB'S MUST  
FINALLY CONVERGE WITH TARIFF NEGOTAITIONS, CITED MTN/  
3B/23 AS APPROPRIATE LOOK AT TREATMENT OF LDC INTERESTS  
ON NTB'S. LONG CONCLUDED THAT FURTHER EXCHANGE OF  
VIEWS ON NTB'S REQUIRE BEFORE AGREEMENT ON TENTATIVE  
WORK PROGRAM IN SIGHT.

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ARA-06 EUR-12 EA-06 NEA-09 IO-10 ISO-00

AGR-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-01

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INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

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6. TARIFFS: US INDICATED IN VIEW OF NEAR UNANIMITY ON NEED FOR EARLY TARIFF WORK WE LIKELY TO PROPOSE AT TNC A TARIFF REDUCTION HYPOTHESES AND POSSIBLY ALTERNATIVE AS WELL, TO INDICATE RANGE OF POSSIBILITIES AS NEGOTIABLE. WE HOPED THIS INDICATION FLEXIBILITY WOULD MAKE FOR RAPID PROGRESS AND LEAD TO TENTATIVE PLAN BY MID SUMMER, AT WHICH TIME ADVISORY PROCEDURES REQUIRED BY TRADE ACT SHOULD BE COMPLETED AND DETAILED PRODUCT LOOK WOULD BE POSSIBLE. EC STATED THAT THE WORK ON TARIFFS WOULD NEED DEAL WITH BASE RATES, BASE YEARS, UNIT OF ACCOUNT, AND OTHER MATTERS IN GETTING TO TARRIFF FORMULAS BUT SHARED HOPE OF IMPORTANT PROGRESS BY MIS USMMER OR EARLY FALL. MEXICO FELT TARIFF REDUCTION FORMULA MUST TAKE INTO ACCOUNT ENSUING EROSION OF GSP, AND ALSO OF DIFFERENTIALNTARIFF TREATMENT TO BE ACCORDED TO LDCS. CANADA ASSERTED FOCUS SHOULD BE TARIFF PROBLEMS, NOT TARIFF REDUCTION PLAN. CANADA HAS SO FAR NOT CONCENTRATED ON FORMULAS AND THOUGHT US INTENT TO SUGGEST FORMULAS AS EARLY AS AT FORTHCOMING TNC WOULD NOT BE HELPFUL. TARIFF CUTTING FORMULAS SHOULD FIRST BE DISUCSSES PRIVATELY AND INTELLIGENTLY AMONG INTERESTED PARTIES NOT IN GLARE OF PUBLICITY. NEVERTHELESS, BROAD TARIFF NEGOTIATING PLAN MIGHT BE READY BY EARLY FALL. AUSTRALIA ECHOED CANADIAN VIEW ON TARIFFS (BUT NOT ON US INTENTIONS), ADDING NOW PREDICTABLE POINT THAT TARIFF PLAN MUST BE CONSIDERED IN CONJUNCTION WITH NTBS AND SAFEGUARDS AND SHOULD BE PARALLELED BY DISCUSSIONS ON SECTORES.

7. SECTORS: CANADA ONLY SPEAKER, REPLAYING FAMILIAR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ARGUMENT THAT SECTOR APPROACH WOULD PROVE MOST APPROPRIATE SINCE TARIFFS, NTBS AND OTHER TRADE BARRIERS COULD BE SUBSUMED IN SUCH APPROACH.

8. AGRICULTURE: TOPIC GIVEN BRIEF TREATMENT IN VIEW OF DG COMMENT THAT CERTAIN DELS STILL WORKING OUT THEIR DIFFERENCES ON STRUCTURE FIRST DISCOVERED OCTOBER 1973. AUSTRALIA EXPRESSED HOPE THESE DELS WILL KEEP INTERESTS OF SMALLER COUNTIRES IN MIND. (MEXICO MADE SMAE REQUEST IN PRIVATE SESSION.) AUSTRALIA PRESSED FOR MAXIMUM FLEXIBILITY SUGGESTING THAT AD HOC PROCEDURES FOR VARIOUS AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS BE ESTABLISHED AT NEXT TNC MEETING IF NO AGREEMENT ON

OVERALL APPROACH REACHED BY THAT TIME. EC STATED ITS VIEWS AND PROPOSALS ON NUMBER OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS WILL PROBABLY BE EXPLAINED AT TNC MEETING AND GAVE CAPSULE REPLAY OF DRAFT MANDATE PROVISIONS (ALTHOUGH CAREFUL NOT TO GET TO QUESTION OF GROUP STRUCTURE). US STRESSED EXTREME IMPORTANCE OF AGRICULTURE FOR SUCCESS OF MTN AND SAID AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS SHOULD BE ENCOMPASSED IN EFFECTIVE AND APPROPRIATE MANNER IN OVERALL PROGRAM OF ACTIVITY IN MTN. OUR PRIMARY INTEREST WAS IN SUBSTANCE OF WORK TO BE DONE.

9. SAFEGUARDS: DG REMINDED REPS AGAIN OF NEED FOR RESPONSE TO SECRETARIAT QUESTIONNAIRE. EC SAID THIS WOULD BE USEFUL BASIS FOR FURTHER WORK; THEIR RESPONSE NOW FILED. CANADA SAID TARIFF WORK NEEDED BE JUDGED IN LIGHT OF PROGRESS ON SAFEGUARDS, WITH GREY GIVING FAMILIAR LITANY ON DE FACTO DUAL STANDARD OF GATT ARTICLE 19, DIFFERENT FOR BIG TRADING COUNTRIES THAN FOR OTHERS. AUSTRALIA AND LDCS AGREED. JAPAN EMPHASIZED SAFEGUARDS WORK SHOULD INCREASE LIBERALIZATION NOT RESTRICT IT. US SAID WE SHOULD FINISH UP WORK LEFT OVER FROM LAST YEAR'S PREPARATORY STAGE AND DERIVE COMPREHENSIVE LOOK AT PROBLEMS AND EXPERIENCE. THEN COULD APPLY JUDGMENTS TO TOKYO ROUND NEGOTIATING PACKAGES AND ALSO TO LONG RUN DESIRED OPERATION OF TRADING SYSTEM. THIS VIEW WOULD DICTATE ORDERLY PROGRESSION OF WORK AND REQUIRE REASONABLE PASSAGE OF TIME. AUSTRALIA ASKED THAT US RESTRICTIONS ON SAFEGUARD GROUNDS IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AGRICULTURAL AREA NOT BE OVERLOOKED.

10. SUPPLY ISSUES: LONG STATED THESE PROBLEMS NOT SUITABLE FOR EARLY NEGOTIATIONS SINCE THEIR SCOPE AND NATURE CALL FOR PRELIMINARY EXPLORATIONS. EC EXPRESSED INTEREST IN THIS TOPIC CITING NEWNESS OF ISSUE IN LAST TWO YEARS. EC NOT CERTAIN WHETHER SPECIAL TREATMENT OF ISSUE REQUIRED IN NEGOTIATIONS BUT EMPHASIZED IT SHOULD BE UP FOR EARLY CONSIDERATION. JAPAN EXPRESSED VIEW THAT THIS ISSUE COULD BE DEALT WITH ON A PRODUCT BY PRODUCT BASIS OR ALTERNATIVELY IN CONTEXT OF NTB NEGOTIATIONS. AS AT PREVIOUS MEETING, CANADA THOUGHT ACCESS TO SUPPLY SHOULD BE NEGOTIATED ON A CASE BY CASE BASIS IN SPECTOR CONTEXT, WHILE AUSTRALIA VIEWED IT AS PART OF QR AND TARIFF PROBLEMS. YUGOSLAVIA (TOMIC) REMINDED THE GROUP THAT THIS PROBLEM MUST ALSO BE VIEWED IN THE LIGHT OF GATT ARTICLE 11. US STATED THAT WIDESPREAD CONCERN ON SUPPLY ISSUES OBVIOUS FROM FACT THAT MOST OTHER MULTILATERAL ORGANIZATIONS SEIZED WITH ISSUE. FOR MTN NOT TO DEAL WITH IT WOULD RAISE

SERIOUS QUESTIONS OF RELEVANCE, AND HOPEFULLY THERE WAS POTENTIAL FOR ACCOMPLISHMENT. WE SAW TOKYO DECLARATION AS SUFFICIENT FOR GETTING AT ANY PART OF ISSUE, AND THEREFORE FOR GENERAL QUESTION AS WELL. (MEXICO CHALLENGED THIS READING). DISCUSSION SHOWED EACH REP SAW PROBLEM FROM ANGLE OF PARTICULAR NATIONAL INTEREST. WHAT WOULD NOW BE USEFUL WAS TO TAKE DG SUGGESTION FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION AMONG DELS ON RAMIFICATION, ELEMENTS, POSSIBLE BARGAINS AND NEGOTIATING APPROACHES, ETC. WE NOT PREPARED, HOWEVER, TO BARGAIN JUST FOR SAKE OF HAVING DISCUSSION.

11. UNCTAD OBSERVER: LONG SEEMED TO SEEK AUTHORIZATION TO INVITE UNCTAD SEC GEN TO FEBRUARY TNC. DISCUSSION THIS ISSUE GENERAL REPEAT OF PARA 9, REF A, WITH VARIETY PROVIDED ONLY BSEBGUNT TALK FROM GREY OF CANADA. WE REPEATED PREVIOUS VIES. NOTED COMPLETE ISSUE WAS STILL MATTER FOR TNC TO DECIDE, THUS ALL 7 PLUS 7 VIEWS MUST REMAIN INFORMAL.

12. NEXT 7 PLUS 7 SESSION SCHEDULED THURSDAY 6 FEB.  
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AT 10:30 AM TO OVE INTO GREATER DETAIL ON WORK AND STRUCTURE.

13. ACTION REQUESTED: MTN DEL WOULD APPRECIATE FURTHER GUIDANCE RE WASHINGTON THINKING ON INITIAL WORK PROGRAM AND GROUP STRUCTURE (OTHER THAN AGRICULTURE TREATMENT) CONSISTENT WITH PLANNED STATEMENT OF US REP TO TNC. DALE

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** TRADE, MEETING AGENDA, INSTRUCTIONS, MEETING REPORTS, AGRICULTURAL AGREEMENTS, NEGOTIATIONS, COMMITTEE MEETINGS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 31 JAN 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975GENEVA00606  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750039-0340, D750037-0109  
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**Line Count:** 420  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EB  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 8  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 75 GENEVA 422, 75 GENEVA 397, 75 ENEVA 421  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 09 APR 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <09 APR 2003 by MartinML>; APPROVED <10 APR 2003 by GolinoFR>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** MTN: JANUARY 30 SEVEN PLUS SEVEN MEETING  
**TAGS:** ETRD, US, GATT  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006